Induction of Upgraded MIG-21s in Indian Air Force

2445. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the upgraded version of MIG-21 carried out its first public flight at the fly-past on Air Force Day, 2001; and

(b) if so, the number of such upgraded MIG-21s inducted in the Indian Air Force; and what modifications have been made therein and what place does the upgraded version occupy in the IAF inventory?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The induction of the upgraded aircraft in Indian Air Force (IAF) is planned to commence in the year 2002. The existing MIG-21 aircraft of the IAF will be upgraded with modern radar and avionics systems. The up-gradation will substantially enhance the operational capability of the MIG-21 Bis aircraft in its stated role in the IAF inventory.

Present strength of Territorial Army

2446. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the strength of the Territorial Army in the country is less than even 30 per cent of (1.37 lakh) as envisaged at the time of independence;

(b) if so, what is the present overall strength of the Territorial Army; and

(c) what were the precise functions of TA as envisaged at that time; and how far they have been watered down?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Territorial Army (TA) and some units of Navy and Air Force similar to TA were in existence at